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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8660
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3961

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,US, JO, UN
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF NEW JORDANIAN PERMREP TO UN

1. DURING COURTEST CALL BY AMBASSADOR,NEWLY-APPOINTED JORDANIAN PERMREP TO UN DR. HAZEM NUSEIBEH COMMENTED ON CONTEMPORARY SCENE. NUSEIBEH IS FROM ONE OF WEST BANK'S MOST PROMINENT FAMILIES.

A. FUTURE OF WEST BANK. REFERRING TO "ONE MILLION PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN," NUSEIBEH FORESAW INEVITABILITY OF SOME SORT OF CONFEDERATION ULTIMATELY BEING FORMED BETWEEN TWO BANKS OF JORDAN RIVER. PROXMIMITY, FOR EXAMPLE, OF NABLUS TO AMMAN ("ONE HOUR'S DRIVE") AND SUPERIOR EDUCATION AND GREATER ENERGY OF PALESTINIANS APPEARED TO DICTATE FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL TIES BETWEEN BANKS WHICH WOULD EMERGE ININSTITUTIONAL FROM FOLLOWING HOPED FOR EVENTUAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITIRIES.

B. ARAB NATIONALISM AND UNITY. NUSEIBEH, WHO HAS WRITTEN BOOK ON THIS TOPIC, PREDICTED PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TOWARD ARAB UNITY DUE TO GREATER POLITICAL MATURITY ON PART OF ARABS. SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF
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EVOLUTION SIMILAR TO 19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN HOLY ALLIANCE.

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NUSEIGEH, OOWEVER, CRITICIZED "U.S. ROLE" IN INHIBITING SUCH DEVELOPMENT, CLAIMING THAT "ISRAELI PROBLEM" TENDED TO SPLINTER ARABS. (AMBASSADOR COUNTERED WITH SUGGESTIO THAT IF ANYTHING, EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL TENDED TO PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR JOINT ARAB EFFORTS, RATHER THAN OPPOSITE.) NUSIEBEH SAYS HIS EARLY VIEWS PUBLISHED IN HIS BOOK HAVE CHANGED. THEY ARE NOW LESS THEORETICAL AND ACADEMIC AND MORE TOLERANT OF THE HUMAN AND POLITICAL REALITIES.

C. LEBANON. NUSEIBEH REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO HUMILIATIONS SUFFERED BY PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF HIS OWN FAMILY WHO WERE HARASSED BY SYRIAN AUTHORITIES EN ROUTE FROM BEIRUT TO UMMAN TWO DAYS AGO. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT 'ARAFAT HAD MADE GRIEVOUS ERROR IN NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE WHEN HE MET WITH ASAD IN MARCH AND ASAD OFFERED HIM A SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON WHICH SEEMED TO MEET ARAFAT'S DESIRES.

2. COMMENT: NUSEIBEH, WHO WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK AROUND SEPTEMBER 15, MAY FOCUS ON PALESTINIAN ASPECT OF MIDDLE EAST EVENTS MORE THAN HIS EAST BANK PREDECESSOR. (HIS HOUSE GUEST AT TIME OF CONVERSATION WAS FORMER NABLUS MAYOR HAJ MA'ZOUZ AL-MASRI.) SHOULD BE INTERESTING TO OBSERVE ULTIMATE RESULT OF THIS ORIENTATION IN CONTEXT OF KING HUSSEIN'S PUBLICLY ASSIDUOUS (THUS FAR) ADHERENCE TO RABAT RESOLUTIONS DECREEING JORDANIAN RELINQUISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BANK.

3. AMBASSADOR PLANS AT LEAST ONE MORE SESSION WITH NUSEIBEH TO REVIEW KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN ISSUES. PICKERING

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